GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:137
ANSWERED ON:16.11.2016
Media Restriced in Court Proceedings
Thomas Prof. Kuruppassery Varkey

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government is aware that media persons are being restricted to report the proceedings in some of the courts in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) What steps are taken by the Government to protect the media persons from the harassment they face from the courts ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
[COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]

(a) and (b) Press Council of India has recently received a complaint from Dr. Sebastain Paul, (Ex-MP) and Advocate, Hon''ble High Court of Kerala and also former member of the Council that both print and electronic media are being prevented from entering the court premises both in High Court and District Courts in Kerala. The Council initiated action and called for the status report from the Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala and the Registrar, High Court of Kerala, Ernakulam on 16.09.2016 followed by a reminder dated 07.10.2016. The response is awaited.

(c) So far as the matter of protection of media persons from the harassment from the court is concerned, no such matter has come to the notice of the Ministry. However, for maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India and to inculcate principles of self-regulation among the press, the Press Council of India (PCI), has formulated ''Norms of Journalistic Conduct'', Print Media is expected to adhere to these Norms. The Norm 12(A) on the subject 'Caution in Criticizing Judicial Acts', Norm 12(B) on the subject 'Reporting News Pertaining to Court Proceedings' and Norm 41(A) on the subject 'Trial by Media' of the Norms of Journalistic Conduct prescribe the manner in which proceedings of the Court matters are to be dealt with.

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